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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6665

BILL NUMBER: SB 236

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 30, 2012

BILL AMENDED: Jan 26, 2012

SUBJECT: Various Education Matters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Delph

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) *Instructional Time:* The bill provides that a school placed in the highest category or designation of academic performance is not required to conduct a school year of at least 180 student instructional days if the school conducts at least an equivalent number of hours of student instructional time.

School Calendar: This bill prohibits public schools, except charter schools, from beginning student instructional days for the school year before the fourth Monday in August and from ending after June 10 of the following year, beginning with the 2014-2015 school year. It provides that a governing body may establish a beginning date before Labor Day or an end date for a school year that is later than June 10 for year-round schools, schools with balanced calendars, schools that coordinate calendars with a postsecondary educational institution, and schools that coordinate calendars with a large employer in the school corporation following public hearings and a majority vote of the governing body. The bill provides that a governing body may establish an end date for a school year that is later than June 10 for any school following public hearings and a majority vote of the governing body.

High Performance: The bill creates a designation of "high performing school corporation", and provides that certain statutes and rules are waived for a high performing school corporation.

Effective Date: July 1, 2012.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *School Calendar:* The provision changing the start and ending dates of the school year should have no impact on state expenditures. Schools would still be required to have at least

180 days of instruction per year.

Instructional Time: The bill could reduce the possible recovery of tuition support from schools that are in the highest performance category and that do not meet the required instruction time. Current law provides a reduction in tuition support for each day under the 180-day requirement. Under the bill, schools that do not provide the minimum 900 hours in Grades 1 through 6 and 1,080 hours in Grades 7 through 12 will have their tuition support reduced for each day less than the current 180-day requirement.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Instructional Time:* The bill would allow high performing schools to modify the school calendar from the current 180-day minimum school year to a different calendar.

The bill could reduce local school expenditures, depending on if a school chooses to reduce the number of instructional days in the school calendar. Schools that currently have to make up lost days due to weather conditions or lose tuition support revenue might not have to as long as they had 900 hours of instruction for Grades 1 through 6 and 1,080 hours of instruction for Grades 7 through 12.

Schools spent about \$36.4 M per day from the school general fund and \$2.9 M per day to transport students to school during the 2011 school year. Schools might also have reduced utility and school lunch expenditures if the number of days are reduced.

School Calendar: There could be some impact on schools depending on how the school structures the calendar. The number of teacher contract days are not changed by the bill. Schools would still operate the same number of days. There could be some reduction in heating and cooling costs, depending on when school is held. For FY 2011, schools spent about \$121.4 M on heating and cooling of schools.

(Revised) *High Performance:* The bill would waive certain rules and statutes if a school meets or exceeds at least 90% of the benchmarks established for school corporations in the areas of:

1. ISTEP performance.
2. Graduation rate.
3. Postsecondary enrollment.
4. ACT and SAT scores.
5. College readiness data.
6. Student attendance.
7. Faculty proficiency.
8. Other benchmarks established by Department of Education.

The following rules or statutes would be waived.

1. Length of student instructional days.
2. Minimum number of student instructional days.
3. Penalty for failure to conduct minimum number of instructional days.
4. Minimum length of school term.
5. Application requirements for community or volunteer service credits.
6. Necessity for a waiver to implement nonstandard courses and curriculum programs.

The provision could reduce school administrative costs and program costs for high performing schools. The

amount of the saving is unknown.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: Schools.

Information Sources: Department of Education databases.

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